

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PHAT030070WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/IB2004/052723	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 09 December 2004 (09.12.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 23 December 2003 (23.12.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.			

1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).		
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet. In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.		
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items:		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application	
4.	The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).		

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Date of issuance of this report 26 June 2006 (26.06.2006)
	Authorized officer Cecile Chatel e-mail: pt13@wipo.int

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 20 OCT 2005

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To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/B2004/052723

International filing date (day/month/year)
09.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
23.12.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G03F7/20

Applicant
KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/052723

Box No. 1 Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/052723

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	4
	No: Claims	1-3
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-4
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6 005 294
D2: US-A-4 343 877
D3: DE 41 08 576 A1
D4: EP-A-1 150 170
D5: EP-A-1 162 507

- 2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of certain claims is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

- 2.1 Document D1 discloses all of the features of **claim 1**:

A wafer (8; cf. figure 3), which wafer comprises a number of lattice fields (3b) in each exposure field (17b), wherein each lattice field contains an IC (implicit), and which wafer comprises a first group of dicing paths (path 2 in one direction; cf. column 4, lines 33 - 37) and a second group of second dicing paths (path 2 in the perpendicular direction to the first direction; cf. column 4, lines 33 - 37), wherein all of the first dicing paths of the first group run parallel to a first direction (2, figure 3) and have a first path width (2, figure 3) and wherein all of the second dicing paths of the second group run parallel to a second direction intersecting the first direction and have a second path width (2, figure 3) and wherein the first dicing paths and the second dicing paths are provided and designed for a subsequent segregation of the lattice fields and the ICs contained therein (implicit), and wherein in each exposure field at least two control module fields (13, 14, 15, 16) are provided, each of which control module fields contains at least one optical control module (implicit, the marks are alignment marks and therefore necessarily optical control marks; cf. column 5, lines 4 - 6), and wherein each control module field provided in an exposure field is provided in place of a preset number of lattice fields (alignment marks being in the exposure fields and therefore at a preset number of lattice fields; cf. figure 3), and wherein the at least two control module fields of each exposure field are arranged at an average distance from one another extending in the second direction which average distance is equal to at least a quarter of the side length of a side of the exposure field which extends in the second direction (see figure 3, distance between e.g. 16 and 15 being more than

a quarter of the length of the exposure field 17).

Therefore, **claim 1** is not novel.

When drafting claims to overcome the above objections based on D1, the applicant should ensure that the amended claims are also novel and inventive over D2 - D5.

- 2.2 Certain dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step.

D1 discloses the additional feature of **claim 2** of the average distance being the whole length of an exposure field (17b; cf. figure 3)) minus the length of a lattice field (3b).

D1 discloses the additional feature of **claim 3** of the control modules being located in a corner region. (cf. figure 3).

The additional feature of **claim 4** of providing of the control module in place of one lattice field only would be provided as a matter of routine.